



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

DEC 27 2012

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:  
S-6J

Mr. Alan W. Mortensen  
Mr. Dustin Lance  
Dewsnup, King & Olsen  
36 South State Street, Suite 2400  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Dear Mr. Mortensen and Mr. Lance:

Thank you for your December 12, 2012 letter regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's actions in eastern Sandusky County, Ohio. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson has asked me to respond on her behalf.

EPA recognizes that the families affected by childhood cancer have suffered a great deal and agrees that providing timely information to the community is very important. EPA provided verbal updates to key stakeholders before publishing reports and data on our website. Most recently, in July and August 2012, EPA communicated the initial findings of its recent environmental assessments to local officials and Mr. Warren Brown, who has served as an advocate for many of the concerned families. In addition, EPA responded to several media outlets in early August about these initial results and also conducted an on-camera interview with a local news channel. EPA believes that these findings were communicated diligently and is committed to continuing and improving outreach.

To ensure interested residents have the latest information, EPA is taking the following actions:

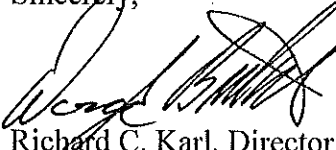
- Revising the Eastern Sandusky County Assessment Project website (<http://www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/easternsandusky>).
- Developing an updated fact sheet for the community.
- Working with the Sandusky County Health Department on how best to reach interested parties without violating the privacy of residents.
- Drafting a technical document that will provide an update on all EPA activities in the area and summarize all of the findings, including EPA's recent cleanup activities. This document will address many of the action items stated in your letter. EPA will post this document on its website and notify the community as soon as it is available.

With respect to the Whirlpool Park site assessment, EPA understands that the current property owner and Whirlpool have entered into an access agreement. Whirlpool is in the process of preparing a workplan and EPA expects to receive it no later than the end of January 2013. Once EPA approves the work plan, Whirlpool will begin the assessment. EPA will provide oversight, collect independent samples, and keep the community informed of these site assessment results.

Finally, it is important to understand that EPA's efforts are designed to evaluate suspect sites to determine if they pose a threat to public health or the environment and remediate such threats. EPA does not plan to duplicate the efforts already conducted by the state and local agencies; however, the information EPA generated from our assessments is available to those agencies for their use. EPA secured an independent expert to review the findings of the cancer cluster investigation that was led by the Ohio Department of Health. Our expert advised EPA that the health agencies conducted as thorough an evaluation of the cluster in Clyde and Eastern Sandusky County as current science permits.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact Cathleen Martwick in our Office of Regional Counsel at (312) 886-7166. For technical information, please contact Stephen Wolfe, On-Scene Coordinator at (440) 250-1718.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division